

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/071,802

Examiner

Johnna R. Stimpak

Applicant(s)

WONG, ALVIN

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3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the appeal brief filed 6/30/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 9,11-13,15,17,18,20,21 and 23.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 9/14/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TARIQ R. HAFIZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jordan Bodner on September 13, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

✓ Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for reporting supplier on time performance comprising:

storing in a database summarized purchase order data from a plurality of buyers, the summarized purchase order data comprising a plurality of records, each record in the plurality of records including a supplier, a buyer, a one of a plurality of start point/end point pairs for measuring on time delivery, a number of orders placed, and a number of orders delivered on time, wherein the start point is representative of a plurality of events triggering a start of a time period used to measure delivery time, the end point is representative of a plurality of events triggering an end of a time period used to measure delivery time, and each of the plurality of start point/end point pairs can be different from each other for at least one buyer, and wherein the start point corresponds to a first point along an order fulfillment process and the end point corresponds to a second point along the order fulfillment process;

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for a first subset of the plurality of records, each record in the first subset including a first of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and a first supplier, summing together the number of orders placed included in each record of the first subset to obtain a first total number of orders placed with the first supplier for which the first start point/end point pair is used to measure on time delivery;

for the first subset of the plurality of records, summing together the number of orders delivered on time to obtain a number of the first total number of orders that were delivered on time;

for a second subset of the plurality of records, each record of the second subset including a second of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and the first supplier, summing together the number of orders placed included in each record of the second subset to obtain a second total number of orders placed with the first supplier for which the second start point/end point pair is used to measure on time deliver;

for the second subset of the plurality of records, summing together the number of orders delivered on time to obtain a number of the second total number of orders that were delivered on time; and

~~reporting to the plurality of buyers, the first total number of orders, the number of first total number of orders that were delivered on time, the second total number of orders, and the number of the second total number of orders that were delivered on time;~~

for a third subset of the plurality of records, each record in the third subset including a third of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and a second supplier, summing together the number of orders placed included in each record of the third subset to obtain a third total number

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of orders, the third total being a total number of orders placed with the second supplier for which the first start point/end point pair is used to measure on time delivery;

for the third subset of the plurality of records, summing together the number of orders delivered on time included in each record of the third subset to obtain a number of the third total number of orders that were delivered on time; and

reporting to the plurality of buyers and the plurality of suppliers the first total number of orders, the number of the first total number of orders that were delivered on time, the second total number of orders, the number of the second total number of orders that were delivered on time, the third total number of orders and the number of the third total number of orders that were delivered on time.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 40 ~~9~~ wherein the number of the first total number of orders that were delivered on time is a percentage, the number of the second total number of orders that were delivered on time is a percentage, and the number of the third total number of orders that were delivered on time is a percentage, the method further comprising:

dividing the number of the first total number of orders that were delivered on time by the first total number of orders and multiplying the result by 100;

dividing the number of second total number of orders that were delivered on time by the second total number of orders and multiplying the result by 100; and

dividing the number of third total number of orders that were delivered on time by the third total number of orders and multiplying the result by 100.

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13. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~10~~ 9 wherein the third subset of the plurality of records consists of a single record.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original)

18. (Currently Amended) A system for reporting supplier on time performance comprising:

at least one computer;

first executable code for storing in a database summarized purchase order data from a plurality of buyers, the summarized purchase order data comprising a plurality of records, each record including a supplier, a buyer, a one of a plurality of start point/end point pairs for measuring on time delivery, a number of orders placed, and a number of orders delivered on time, wherein the start point is representative of a plurality of events triggering a start of a time period used to measure delivery time, the end point is representative of a plurality of events triggering an end of a time period used to measure delivery time, and each of the plurality of start point/end point pairs can be different from each other for at least one buyer, and wherein the start point corresponds to a first point along an order fulfillment process and the end point corresponds to a second point along the order fulfillment process;

second executable code for, which respect to a first subset of the plurality of records, each record in the first subset including a first of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and a first supplier, summing together the number of orders placed included in each record

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of the first subset to obtain a first total number of orders placed with the first supplier for which the first start point/end point pair is used to measure on time delivery;

third executable code for, with respect to the first subset of the plurality of records, summing together the number of orders delivered on time to obtain a number of the first total number of orders that were delivered on time;

fourth executable code for, with respect to a second subset of the plurality of records, each record of the second subset including a second of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and the first supplier, summing together the number of orders placed included in each record of the second subset to obtain a second total number of orders placed with the first supplier for which the second start point/end point pair is used to measure on time deliver;

fifth executable code for, with respect to the second subset of the plurality of records, summing together the number of orders delivered on time to obtain a number of the second total number of orders that were delivered on time; and

sixth executable code for assembling a report, the report including the first total number of orders, the number of the first total number of orders that were delivered on time, the second total number of orders, and the number of the second total number of orders that were delivered on time;

wherein the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth executable code is in an electronically readable medium accessible to the at least one computer;

seventh executable code for, with respect to a third subset of the plurality of records, each record in the third subset including a third of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and a second supplier, summing together the number of orders placed included in each

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record of the third subset to obtain a third total number of orders, the third total being a total number of orders placed with the second supplier for which the first start point/end point pair is used to measure on time delivery; and

eighth executable code for, with respect to the third subset of the plurality of records, summing together the number of orders delivered on time to obtain a number of the third total number of orders that were delivered on time;

wherein, the report assembled by the sixth executable code also includes the third total number of orders and the number of the third total number of orders that were delivered on time; and

wherein the seventh and eighth executable code is also in an electronically readable medium accessible to the at least one computer.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein the number of the first total number of orders that were delivered on time is a percentage and the number of second total number of orders that were delivered on time is a percentage, the system further comprising:

~~seventh~~ ninth executable code for dividing the number of first total number of orders delivered on time by the first total number of orders and multiplying the result by 100; and

~~eighth~~ tenth executable code for dividing the number of the second total number of orders that were delivered on time by the second total number of orders and multiplying the result by 100

wherein the ~~seventh-ninth~~ and ~~eighth-tenth~~ executable code is also in an electronically readable medium accessible to the at least one computer.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~19~~ 18 wherein the number of the first total number of orders that were delivered on time is a percentage, the number of second total number of orders that were delivered on time is a percentage, and the number of the third total number of orders that were delivered on time is a percentage, the system further comprising:

ninth executable code for dividing the number of first total number of orders delivered on time by the first total number of orders and multiplying the result by 100; and

tenth executable code for dividing the number of the second total number of orders that were delivered on time by the second total number of orders and multiplying the result by 100; and

eleventh executable code for dividing the number of the third total number of orders that were delivered on time by the third total number of orders and multiplying the result by 100;

wherein the ninth, tenth and eleventh executable code is also in an electronically readable medium accessible to the at least one computer.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original)

Claims 24-47 (Cancelled)

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2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior art taken alone or in combination fails to teach the claimed invention set forth in claims 9, 11-13, 15-18, 20, 21 and 23. Specifically, the invention set forth in these claims is directed to a method and system for reporting supplier performance wherein purchase order data from a plurality of buyers is summarized comprising records including a supplier, a buyer, one of a plurality of start point/end point pairs, number of orders placed, and number of orders delivered on time. These records are then broken down into subsets reflecting on time performance with the first subset including a first of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and a first supplier, the second subset including a second of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and the first supplier and the third subset including a third of the plurality of start point/end point pairs and the second supplier. The closest prior art, Martin et al, US 5,960,408 teaches reporting on time delivery based only on customer request date and order fill date but does not teach using a plurality of different start point/end point pairs to determine on time delivery.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Darnell et al, US 6,317,415 – method and system for communicating information in a network

Hanzek, US 6,654,726 – communication schema of online system and method of status inquiry and tracking related orders for consumer product having specific configurations

Athavale et al, US 6,539,386 – method and apparatus for modifying a customer order

Martin et al, US 6,292,784 – on-time delivery, tracking and reporting

Martin et al, US 6,029,140 - on-time delivery, tracking and reporting

Martin et al, US 5,809,479 - on-time delivery, tracking and reporting

Aycock et al, US 5,765,138 – apparatus and method for providing interactive evaluation of potential vendors

Armstrong et al, Us 5,627,973 – method and apparatus for facilitating evaluation of business opportunities for supplying goods and/or services to potential customers

Rosslar, Paul E. and Hirsz, A B – Purchasing's interaction with customers: The effects on customer satisfaction – a case study

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johnna R. Stimpak whose telephone number is 571-272-6736. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JS

9/15/05



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